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Agricultural.

THE CATTLE INDUSTRY OF THE WEST.

Mr. Richard Johnson, an attaché of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has been traveling through the cattle-growing sections of the West, looking into the condition of the cattle and the ranges, and studying the changes which have already taken place, and those which the future growth of the cattle industry will make necessary. The rapid influx of settlers and the fences put up on their homesteads have so obstructed the old cattle trail between Texas and Montana that it takes several weeks longer to make the drive than last year, even. The route was originally chosen because of the abundant supply of water, either springs or streams being found every ten or fifteen miles, but these are fast being fenced in and the cattle men forced to make wide detours to reach water. The old trail must soon be abandoned on this account and a new drive found through a less favorable territory, or the driving of the cattle extended in a measure. To give up the drive entirely and ship by rail exclusively would be too expensive. Yet it is evident that the ranching system must be done away with, to a yet larger extent, within a few years, and new methods of doing the business adopted.

Texas has for a long time supplied the young cattle which were fitted for market on the rich grass pastures of Montana, Wyoming and Colorado. If these markets fail, cattle-breeding in Texas will receive a severe set-back. The quality of Texas cattle has improved greatly of late; in fact the improvement is generally noticeable throughout the Southwest. The Texas longhorn, a lean, sinewy animal, is being rapidly replaced by a cross between the Durham and Devon, and the average weight of the cattle is greater by more than 100 pounds than it ever was before.

In the Northwest, and east of the Missouri River, Mr. Johnson says the grade of the cattle has deteriorated in a marked degree. He says: "Four or five years ago what are known as the Oregon cattle, though by no means confined to the State of Oregon, were by all odds the best to be found on the range. They were nearly invariably three-quarters or five-sixths Durham, ran high in flesh, weighing 150 to 200 pounds more than Montana and Dakota stock, and their beef was equal to that of fine, stall-fed stock. To-day half-breeds are in the majority, the beef produced is not nearly so fine, and the average weight of the cattle has fallen off nearly 100 pounds. One fact has been proved beyond a doubt, and that is that neither in a cold nor dry section of the country should the Durham be introduced."

The number of cattle in Dakota, Minnesota and western Missouri is being reduced rather than augmented. Low prices have discouraged farmers, and they are selling off their cattle and going into horses. This decrease in the supply will have the inevitable result, in time, of strengthening the market, and the cattle-growing industry may replace wheat raising in the agricultural districts of the States named.

The announcement is made officially that the government, through the Department of Agriculture, will make a special exhibition of fruits and vegetables at the Detroit Exposition. As the government can draw for its supplies, not only from all over this continent but from all the countries of the world, it is possible to make an exhibit which for variety, novelty, value and interest cannot possibly be excelled. Such an exhibit the managers of the Exposition expect will be made.

THE WOOLEN WASTE DECISION.

Recently J. Wild & Co., of New York, imported a lot of garnetted waste, which the collector at the port of New York assessed at thirty cents. Wild & Co. appealed to the United States Treasury Department, claiming the waste is dutiable at ten cents per pound. The decision of the Secretary of the Treasury is as follows, announced in a letter to the collector at New York:

The question as to the classification of merchandise of this character was decided by the department on the 26th of October, 1887, and it was then, as it was on the 13th of July, 1887, held that woolen waste which may have been broken up and put through the garnetting machine, whereby it becomes practically scoured wool, was dutiable at the rate prescribed for scoured wool—that is to say, when of the first class and costing under 30 cents per pound in the unwashed condition, at a duty of 30 cents per pound as assessed by you. The collector's decision in the case in question is therefore affirmed. The appraising officers recently in conference in New York considered the general question as to proper classification of so-called garnetted, carbonated, or other similar wool wastes, and have reported to the Treasury Department that in their opinion any process of manufacture whereby the value and character of a refuse article, such as waste of wool, have been changed or enhanced, and its identity as a waste or worthless substance destroyed, so that in fact it becomes scoured wool, it no longer belongs to the category of waste, but should be classified as scoured. The report says that the so-called garnetted and carbonated waste have undergone a very decided process of manufacture; their value has been increased to within a trifle of the wool itself; their appearance is made so closely to resemble the actual article as to deceive even experts, and by an admixture of the manufactured article with the natural wool, their purposes of use are identical with the same, and should, in the opinion of the appraisers, be classified for duty at the same rate as the wool from which they come and which they so closely resemble.

Garnetted wool waste is practically unmanufactured scoured wool. In spinning yarn or thread from wool a part of it becomes tangled; this is called throw waste, and by putting it through the garnet machine it is restored to its original condition—clean scoured wool. Just enough nolls and other wools are run through with it to make a mixture calculated to pass the custom house under a duty of ten cents per pound instead of thirty cents. A large business has sprung up in the importation of this garnetted waste, which has heretofore evaded its proper rating. During the first three months of this year, 2,229,936 lbs. of this "waste" were imported from Bradford, England, where there is a regular manufactory established.

The decision of the Treasury Department is in accordance with common-sense and the plain intent of the law. The question was whether the duty should be fixed by the trade name, when that name did not properly describe the article, or whether the real quality or name of the article should fix its dutiable rate. Certain importers who have heretofore paid ten cents per pound duty on wool actually dutiable at three times that sum have now an opportunity to reflect "What's in a name?"

THE BULLETINS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

When a small boy does well we think it right to give him a word of praise. Men, even old and wise men, are often no less encouraged and made glad by the kindly recognition of their efforts to do good. The agricultural and live stock papers generally are commending the action of Hon. J. M. Rusk in providing for the frequent issue of bulletins giving briefly, in plain words, the more useful and practical parts of the larger and more scientifically written reports of the Department of Agriculture.

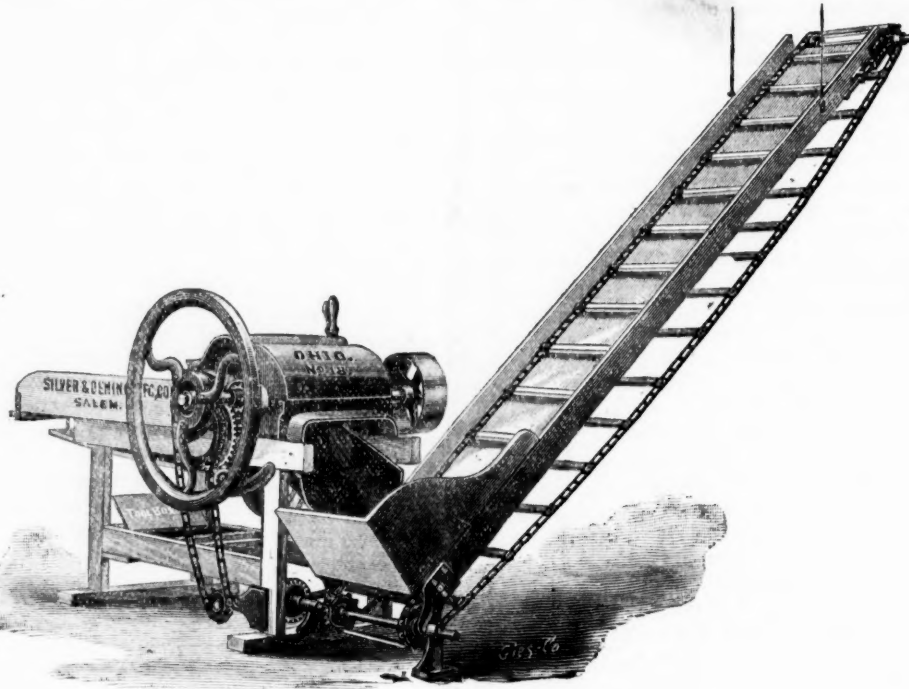
In order that these documents may have a wide circulation and reach the parties most likely to appreciate them, the Hon. Secretary of Agriculture has arranged for securing lists of the leading stock growers in each county. As a rule the live stock men pay most attention to one particular class of animals, to horses, or cattle, or sheep, or swine. The design is to group them according to the class in which they are most interested, selecting as far as possible one man for each class in each township, or at least in different parts of the county.

Much valuable information gathered by the Department of Agriculture will thus be promptly placed in the hands of those especially interested in the matter presented in each particular report, and the several editions will circulate almost entirely among those to whom they will be of the most value. A good scheme this, one which the farmers and live stock dealers will most heartily approve.

The recent flurry among some breeders in the matter of express rates has blown away. The old rates are restored and now the pigs can travel by express at merchandise or single rates.

The wheat crop in central Illinois is not yielding as well as last year and the corn is not fulfilling the high promise of two weeks ago. Days have averaged well, the hay crop, red clover particularly, has been heavy; though owing to frequent rains it has not been put up in the best of condition. Stock holders are more plentiful than usual, hog cholera very scarce. A large number of letters addressed to veterinary surgeons and others, throughout the State, fall to discover any serious diseases among hogs this summer. PHIL. THREFTON.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill.



The "Ohio" Standard Feed Cutter, with Reversible Carriers.

THE SENTIMENT OF THE PEOPLE.

MICHIGAN STATE GRANGE, MASTER'S OFFICE, BERRIEN CENTER, AUG. 1, 1889.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer: I have been a warm friend of our Agricultural College for many years. I have viewed with pleasure its growing favor with the agriculturists of our own State, and especially have I felt proud of the marked change and progress in the Department of Practical Agriculture during the last ten years. Prior to that time it was my pleasure to visit our College in a representative capacity on several occasions. I could not fully approve of the condition of the grounds and the farm and stock as found on those visits, and went away with many misgivings. During the last ten years I have visited this institution in a like capacity. I found a marked improvement, and in every instance the remark was, "We have a good man as professor of practical agriculture, and with the scientific professors in the other departments our College must come to the front, and stand at the head of all similar institutions in the nation." But to my astonishment and chagrin the last two or three years there has seemed to be a disposition on the part of some, or class, to bring discredit on the practical department of this college. Should this idea prevail and the Board conclude to remove Prof. Johnson, with the full intention of securing a professor of scientific agriculture in his stead, then will the high standard of our beloved institution be lowered.

I have watched the management of our College for eight years, closely, and have come in close contact with all the professors. While I have great faith in all, I must say that in the classroom, in the office, on the farm and with the stock, Professor Johnson has presented all his thoughts in a clear and practical way. His presentation is equal to that of any professor in the College, and in my opinion he is entitled to a fair and impartial investigation. His thousands of friends in this State want to know what he has done to receive the condemnation of the Board; and not he alone but the department should receive a full and fair hearing; and then if the combined wisdom of those young students who presented the petition to the governor asking Prof. Johnson's removal, should prove conclusive evidence that they are "the power behind the throne" and the element that should dictate, then we have no need of a State Board of Agriculture.

I do not wish to dictate to our Board in any way; it is composed of many of my best friends in this State, and men for whom I have nothing but the kindest wishes, but I cannot help putting in my protest against this public announcement that Prof. Johnson is requested to resign, and then pin on to the finale, that they have nothing but the highest regards for his energies and untiring ability, etc. Let us know what the trouble is, and if he has committed an offense remove him; if not and he on the other hand has done his duty faithfully, honorably and fearlessly, as a large majority of his friends do believe, then retain him.

Yours truly and for the right, THOS. MARS.

GREENVILLE, July 31, 1889.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer: DEAR SIR:—Wherever I turn some one confronts me with questions concerning the Agricultural College troubles. From opinions expressed, I learn that the present state of affairs is belittling the institution in the estimation of even its warmest friends. One says, "Expel all the students;" another, "Discharge the entire faculty;" another, "Appoint a new Board of Agriculture;" another, "Sell the whole institution for what money it will fetch;" etc., etc. Several months ago I expressed my opinion on College matters pretty forcibly, and was at once overwhelmed by the wrath of an epistle from an old friend, notifying me that I was a presumptuous and premature Judge of affairs, as I had not been at the institution. I was also invited to come and see, then to be of such opinion as I preferred. I

went, I saw, and was of the same opinion still. This was in August last, and yet I went again in January, kept a close watch for that festering cancer which is sapping the life of our grand old College. I conversed with the man upon one side of the faculty, and with some men upon the other side. I called upon Prof. Johnson and requested him to show me over the farm department. In company with several gentlemen he conducted me entirely over the farm. We passed through the barns and fields, and experimental plots. I questioned him upon these things almost to a degree of impatience; in connection with most every plot, I asked the day when planted, quantity of seed, fertilizers used, depth of plowing, condition of drainage, what to be proved by the experiment, and every conceivable question designed to test a man's interest in his work. The professor had no intimation of my designs, unless he was shrewd enough to surmise them, but in nearly every instance he answered these questions without hesitation, and without referring to any records. The stock was in good order, the crops fine, the weeds down, the drains working, the barns the best kept I ever saw them, tools in order, and every body in the department civil and sociable, and disposed to be instructive.

I stated the result of my search and my satisfaction to other members of the faculty, and asked what was the matter. I was informed that as an experimenter and practical farmer he was the very best, but there was something to the effect that he failed to interest his classes. Noticing that these gentlemen were reserved in their exposition of the matter, I could only honor their judgment for it, and persisted only in asking this question: "If there are two sides to this matter, and Prof. Johnson has given his to the public, thereby prejudicing the public against you and the College, why do you not give as freely the other side?" The answer was: "We do not propose to wash our dirty linen in public; if he wants to, we will suffer it to be so." I could scarcely do less than infer from this that "Faculty Row" once meaning the row of dwellings along the front of the river, had become "Faculty Row"—a big fuss in the faculty, of the existence of which the students were well aware, and not slow to scheme in accordance. I questioned some students; they only said, "His lectures are dry."

I talked with an assistant; he waxed wrathful and eloquent. "The Professor (Johnson) was dry." "Would you pay your money to have a man teach you how to make your farm pay?" I confess the gentleman struck me high that time, for I would pay something just now to learn a rapid road to riches by agriculture. How is it, brother farmers, do you work for your health?

I can only say I am disappointed with, and ashamed of the whole proceeding. A doubtless, in the first place, trivial difficulty has grown into a public scandal. Some one has been abused. Prof. Johnson has freely stated his grievances, the accused upon the other side are wholly reticent. In this I am puzzled, for I know there are some sound fighters among them. Prof. Johnson professes that he has been denied a fair investigation.

The people of the State have justly taken hold of the matter, and petitions are out and have been largely signed, demanding that an investigation be accorded him as he shall leave no grievances unredressed. Then to prophesy results: If the accused members of the faculty, antagonizing Johnson, are blameless, they may come forward with a willingness surprising to us all; if they are in danger of incrimination, there may be a wholesale business of resigning; a calamity of no small importance to the College and the State, for whatever may be said of faults and errors, the services of such scientists as Dr. Kodzie, Dr. Beal and Prof. Cook are extremely valuable to the welfare of our College. Yet looking upon them as I do, as guardians of my boyhood, as exemplary characters, upon whose example I long ago attempted to base a manhood of usefulness, I must concede that the College must some time do without them, and is therefore, in any event, of more importance than

they; and if they have, as is alleged, sought to do petty spite greatly injurious to the College and unjust to the farming and taxpaying people of Michigan, I must submit to the verdict, but may the calamity of such mortification yet be spared me a long time.

With respect to those dry lectures, have not all noticed how those juicy sentences of the scientist, concerning the nitrogen supply of bags, became dry and dusty as soon as we stooped to weed the esculent? It is charged that the agricultural department under other instructors has been looked upon as dry, and that students have illustrated those previous instructors. I do not remember that we ever looked upon Prof. Miles' instructions as dry. I do remember it was disastrous to the mind of him. I remember a single instance when a class became restless under Prof. Guiley's instructions, and imposed upon him by undignified disorder. He was those boys' friend. I know he loved them; he bore it without rebuking them, and he could tell you how one of the class rose in his place and rebuked his mates, and advised them of the shamefulness of their conduct; they saw it, and in the end thought a great deal of Prof. Guiley. Had there been some such student to take the lead in recent classes, may it not be possible much present mortification could have been avoided?

It is charged that "other departments have rewarded insubordination by selecting as assistants censured and suspended students." This is an open page in the college history, all can ascertain its truth or falseness with small effort. The facts are unmistakable. I cannot say upon whom rests the responsibility, or what injurious consequences may have resulted. The heads of those departments may have had little choice but the necessity of supplying an assistant, and they are men generally disposed to select an assistant who is proficient in their line.

If Prof. Johnson is a rare success as a practical farmer, makes good use of all applied science as pertaining to practical and experimental agriculture, I would respectfully submit that his work is there, openly before the students from inception to maturity. They can see it all, and with their eight punctuated with his explanations in the lecture room, I ask you want more in the name of common sense do you want him to teach? Is it chemistry? Is it botany or entomology? Would you rob the other departments of all their glory? Or is it Greek and Latin? Or is it pure and vindictive spite that ails you? To the Board of Agriculture, the Faculty, and the students, you cannot go further in this row, wasting our money, and your time, except the public has an interest in it. Let there be a final, full and judicial investigation, that shall blot out suspense, and put a final settlement to the matter beyond appeal.

Respectfully, JOHN E. TAYLOR, Graduate Class 1876.

SALINE, Mich., Aug. 2, 1889.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer: DEAR SIR:—Every farmer in this vicinity heartily endorses the position you have taken in the matter of the Agricultural College, and many of them hope that you will keep hammering away until justice is done to Prof. Johnson. I am in favor of harmony in the College, and believe that all elements that cannot harmonize with Prof. Johnson should get out. I cannot understand why the State Board should ask for Prof. Johnson's resignation as Professor of Practical Agriculture and then pass resolutions strongly endorsing him as a practical agriculturist. "Consistency, thou art a jewel!"

Very respectfully yours, G. L. HOYT.

MILB, Barry Co., Aug. 5, 1889.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer: I enclose petition with 22 names of representative names of farmers from the south part of Barry Co. I could have got many more names, but I only wanted the names of our leading farmers and those who were familiar with this little unpleasantness. With most of these men you are acquainted. These names were got at a grange picnic in the

terior of Barry Co. Jason Woodman was the speaker. He helped in the work. If the honest truth was known, this jealousy commenced away back with Prof. Abbott and Prof. Manly Miles, and the fight of our University in its early day to gobble the College. The same element is at work to have it rival the University and eliminate all manual labor from it, and make it not what it was intended—a farmers' college.

As you may recollect, I listened to Prof. Johnson's lecture last winter at Richland, Kalamazoo Co., and asked him a few questions as well as yourself. The thought came to me, could I but have heard that lecture nearly 60 years ago, when I made my first effort at farming without any agricultural training, or any one to give me any friendly advice! All I got was by looking over my neighbors' fences. Contrast now and then! It is not to be wondered at that with my dearly bought experience I should take a deep interest in our farmers' college in behalf of the rising generation. More is due to Prof. Johnson than any one man for making the College popular with the farmers of Michigan.

Very truly yours, A. C. TOWSE.

LANSING, Mich., Aug. 6, 1889.

Prof. Samuel Johnson: I enclose you a petition with the names of the principal stockmen of Ionia Co. attached. The entire farming community is asking for your retention. I can get the signatures of 99 out of every 100 farmers in Ionia Co. to a petition to have you retained. We feel that the Board of Agriculture is making a serious mistake in asking your resignation.

Yours very respectfully, N. B. HAYES.

THE "OHIO" STANDARD FEED CUTTER.

We this week give an illustration of the "Ohio" Standard Feed Cutter with Reversible Carrier, manufactured by the Silver & Deming Mfg. Co., of Salem, Ohio. It is constructed in the most substantial manner, and has several improvements that add materially to its efficiency. It is a capacity sufficient for the use of large stock raisers and feeders, being equally serviceable as an ensilage or dry fodder cutter. It has a capacity of six to ten tons of green corn fodder per hour, and weighs 700 pounds. The company make a full line of feed and ensilage cutters, from the smallest to the largest, with and without elevators, to run by hand or power. The company have issued a handsome descriptive catalogue of the machines made by them, with a price list of each. It also contains some very practical articles on silos, ensilage and feeding, which every farmer should read. There are also plans and specifications for the construction of a hundred ton silo. Any of our readers can procure this work free of cost by dropping a postal card with a request to the Silver & Deming Mfg. Co., Salem, Ohio.

WHEAT RUST.

The last bulletin of the Agricultural Experiment Station of Indiana, issued in July, is devoted to the subject of rust in wheat, one of the chief pests or diseases of the wheat plant. Since experimental work began at Purdue University, wheat is the crop which has been chiefly studied, not only in regard to culture, varieties, etc., but also the chief enemies, insect and vegetable, which affect the crop. The rust on wheat is due to the attacks of several species of fungi, and low lying, rich soils are most subject to the disease. No varieties are proof against rust, yet some possess greater powers of resistance than others; and it is also thought that an excess of nitrogen in the soil is to be considered as a factor in the appearance of the disease. Where rust is prevalent, early ripening varieties are to be preferred.

We quote the more important portions of the bulletin: "Wheat rust belongs to a division of the rusts known to botanists as *heteroecism*, the meaning of which term is essentially embraced in the thought that these plants are capable of the development of several apparently distinct stages or forms in the course of a year's growth, at least one of which appears upon some plant very dissimilar to that upon which its first or spring form develops. This transfer of the disease from one host plant to another is always accomplished by means of very numerous small spores developed by the preceding growth. As in many other of the parasites which attack agricultural and horticultural crops, at least one of these forms is developed upon some shrub or weed, which may be disposed of without loss to the producer. This fact suggested an apparent remedy—the destruction of the weeds which seem to make possible the continued life of the parasites by furnishing the necessary nourishment for the alternate forms. This idea gave considerable impulse to the study of these forms of fungi, especially those with which this paper is concerned. Yet much remains in doubt concerning the full life cycle. Much more must be done in the way of close investigation before any one definite way may be proposed for the eradication or thorough control of the disease.

"The life history of these *heteroecism* species may be divided into three distinct periods, consequent upon three different stages of development. Each of these growths produces spores, which upon ger-

minating may give rise to the succeeding form in the cycle of development. As fungi they possess a very high degree of parasitism, living not only upon food derived from their host plants, but making themselves a part of the same. Their evil effects are all the greater in that, unlike many parasites, the affected plants do not die at the point of attack, but live on in a slave-like existence, being compelled to nourish the parasite tissues throughout the whole period of growth. Thus it is that in the case of severe attacks the vitality of the affected plants is so reduced that they are much less able to withstand unfavorable conditions, such as sudden changes of temperature, and the result is a light harvest, but too evident when the product is weighed. This effect of rust is particularly noticeable in the spring wheat districts of the Northwest, where the crop over large areas is occasionally almost wholly destroyed through the combined action of rust and early frost. Over a large part of this territory, it is said, that in 1888 had the wheat been unaffected by rust the frost was too light to have had a serious effect."

"It is a common expression among wheat growers that 'red' rust does little damage to the wheat, but when the 'black' strikes the crop is gone. This expression would seem to embody the thought that the two were not only different diseases, but also different in their mode of action upon the wheat plant, which in the light of present microscopic knowledge of their structure is wholly erroneous. They are but different stages in the development of an individual fungus. By the unaided eye we can see only the pustules of rust, the fruit of the parasite, consisting of aggregations of very small spores.

"Under the microscope the spores of the two stages appear even more diverse than do the pustules—yet close observation shows that both arise from the same vegetative fungus, the thread-like filaments which ramify the tissues of the wheat plant; the black spores often occupying the old pustules of the red, only appearing later in point of time. As the red is necessarily the forerunner of the black, and furnishes the spores for the general distribution of the disease at a time when most damage is being done to the crop, it is the one most to be guarded against; black must inevitably follow the red, unless the crop has been harvested before the fungus reaches this last fruiting stage. That the latter appears to be of a more damaging character is to be attributed to the fact that the wheat plant has already withstood a heavy drain upon its food supply by the early growth of the fungus, and has at the time of the appearance of the new fruiting stage reached a condition of exhaustion, at which it is unable to furnish adequate nourishment for its own development and the further growth of the parasite. The latter is able to care for itself, and the seed remains unfilled. Hence it is that when a late ripening crop is early attacked by rust it becomes almost a total loss. And it also accounts for the fact that early spring ripening wheats are less damaged than late varieties, the grain having reached maturity before the rust has attained its most destructive stage, or more properly speaking, has not been so long within the tissues as to reduce the vitality of the plant below a point where it is no longer able to form a perfect berry.

"These two spore forms are known respectively as the summer and winter spores of the parasites. The last named spores do not, as a rule, germinate the summer they are formed, but constitute a resting stage, lasting over the winter and germinating in the spring. They at once produce numerous small spores (*Sporidia*), which germinate immediately upon coming in contact with a suitable amount of moisture such as would be furnished by the moist surface of a leaf. The growing tubercles and by each of these bodies is capable of penetrating the tissues of some non-glumaceous plant and there producing a third form of the rust, known to botanists as the *aecidium* stage, because before their ability with the *Sporidia* was determined, these forms were classed as a separate genus under that name.

"By means of carefully conducted trials cultures in which the *Sporidia* from the germinating resting spores were applied directly to the leaves, care being taken that the plants upon which the tests were being made should be properly isolated, the particular kind of plants upon which aecidia are born have been determined for many of the grass and grain rusts. Each of the three species previously named as being the ones most destructive to the cereal crops have thus been investigated. For *Puccinia graminis*, various species of the barberry have been determined as capable of bearing the alternate form. The buck-thorns of the genera *Rhamnus* and *Fraxinus* support that of *P. coronaria* and by each of these *P. rubigo-vera*, the rust of which is undoubtedly the one most prevalent on wheat in Indiana, has been found to grow upon various species of the boraginaceae family, such as the common hoarhound's tongue (*Cynoglossum officinale*), a road-side weed in the older sections of the country. There is much doubt as to the actual value that the aecidium is to the rust. Certain it is the barberry is too rare a plant to be the cause of the wide-spread damage attributed to wheat rust. The same may be affirmed of the other two species; for all the aecidium bearing plants so far known for these rusts are exceedingly rare. There may yet be plants bearing this stage which remain undiscovered, but still it seems that in some cases this form may not always be necessary. However, it is fair to suppose that it is of some advantage or it would not exist. At best, it makes the continued life of the fungus more certain. The service rendered by it should probably be considered as that of re-investigation, much the same as that which is rendered by reproduction in ordinary plants. (Concluded next week.)

Horticultural.

The Fall Planting of Strawberries.

Most horticulturists are agreed that the best time to plant strawberries is in the spring. But it is sometimes expedient to set the beds in the fall, for various reasons, chief of which is usually the partial crop to be expected the next season. Matthew Crawford, of Ouyahoga Falls, O., gives the following directions for fall planting. As Mr. Crawford is a nurseryman and fruit grower of wide experience, he is a reliable authority:

By fall planting we mean the transplanting of runners of the present year's growth, whether it be done in July or October. By care and skill it may be done as soon as the young roots are an inch in length, or even earlier. The rule is, however, that a plant is not old enough to set until it has branched roots; nor is it self-supporting until some time later. For this reason it is necessary to remove one or more of the leaves when setting out very young plants in the summer, lest more sap be evaporated than the roots can supply. As the season advances, more roots are developed, and there is less risk in the operation. While it is true that the earlier the work is done, other things being equal, the greater will be the crop. It is equally true that plants set early in the fall, when there is more moisture in the air and soil, usually do better than those set in the hot and dry time. It delayed too late, the danger is that they will not get sufficiently rooted to enable them to resist the effects of alternate freezing and thawing. Young plants in the summer are comparatively tender and sappy, and much more easily injured than when more mature. If taken out of hard ground, the roots may be bruised or broken, and if exposed to sun or wind for even a few minutes, many of the hair roots will be destroyed. For this reason it is not best to take up plants in a dry time. It is better to let them grow where they are until rain moistens the soil so that all the roots may be lifted without injury. The latter work is done the closer should the plants be set to each other so that they may fill the row with roots and shade the surface with their leaves. If set twelve inches apart in the row in July, ten inches will be enough in August, eight in September and six in October. The sun should never be allowed to shine on bare ground between plants in the row during the winter or early spring.

The soil for fall-set plants should be rich, so that their roots may find what they need nearby, for they have no time to go far after it. It is well to prepare the place a week or two in advance, so as to let the ground get settled. And it is very important that the crown of the plant be not covered.

If the weather be dry and hot after planting, so that the plants wilt, they should get one good watering in the evening and the soil should be stirred the next morning. If this proves insufficient, they should either have some shade during the heat of the day, or the first leaves that will should be removed to lessen the evaporating surface.

If it is desired to test a new variety the fall is the best time to plant it, for the reason that it will bear the next season and enable one to decide as to its value and give ample time to greatly increase the stock.

Fall set plants must be protected during the winter. Two inches of straw will answer. Of course the drainage should be such that water can not lie on or near the surface. Our method when taking up small lots is to drop each one in a pall of water as it is dug, and carry them to a shed where they are trimmed. Large lots are put in a wet sack.

When plants are received in a dry time, it is an excellent plan to plant them temporarily two or three inches apart in mellow soil where they can be shaded and watered. In a few days new roots will be formed, when, after a thorough watering, they may be removed with the soil adhering and set without any check.

The Apple-Tree Borer.

B. Hathaway, of Little Prairie, Rondo, this State, says in the *Pririe Farmer*:

Only the careful and observing orchardist knows to what extent his orchard is affected by this pest, and the labor required to exterminate it when once it gets possession. Every year, especially in the West, thousands of trees are lost that had the owners known what was the trouble, and taken suitable measures in the early summer, could have been saved.

The least hardy varieties are the most subject to attack. Those that have been injured, or are not thrifty from any cause, are extremely liable to its depredations. Those that have been leaved over by the wind, exposing the body to the hot afternoon sun, are generally the most badly infested and the most difficult to remedy.

As I have been quite successful, even beyond my own expectations, in saving trees that would ordinarily be thought past redemption, I will briefly give my method of handling them.

The first thing to be done is to straighten up the leaning trees, if not too large; and if less than six inches in diameter it can be safely done. I dig a trench from the south side of the tree to the north side, on the west, two feet or more deep, and distant from the tree according to its size. Then, by digging under the tree to the middle, or beyond, I am able to straighten it up, and I lean it a little to the southwest. As the roots and a body of earth go with the tree it is easily kept in position. Then I go over the borer eaten portion with a knife, cutting out the insects and cutting back the edges of the affected portions to sound bark.

I put grafting wax in some vessel in which I can heat it. I build a fire around or near my trees to be treated, so I can heat the wax readily. I use a hand brush broom or an old paint-brush, and put the wax on the trees liberally and "piping hot," being careful to cover all the injured portions.

This kills the insects that have gone into the trees, and any eggs that may have escaped the knife. It shuts out all possible entrances for one or two years at least. It also, by shutting out the elements, promotes the healing process in the tree.

I have used pine-tree tar with apparently equally good results, and I mention this, as it is cheaper and more generally obtainable than grafting-wax. I recommend, however, to put in resin to harden it somewhat—not enough to cause it to crack, but

enough so the hot noon sun will not so melt it as to cause it to run off.

It is not improbable that the scent of the tar, and of the resin in the wax, may have a tendency to keep away the mature insects, as I seldom find any new lodgment of borers on the trees so treated.

While the months of May and June prove the best in results, the work can be done at any time. To go over the orchard in July, and even as late as August, may be the means of saving many valuable trees that would otherwise be lost.

Curran Worms.

A Dorchester subscriber has had much trouble with the curran worm, *Nematus Ventricosus*, an imported insect, that has caused much damage for some years past. I could wish there were no worse insect enemies to contend with. The eggs are laid on the under side of the leaves early in the spring by an insect that winters just under the surface of the ground or in the leaves or other rubbish under the bushes. The eggs can be seen by the naked eye laid along a rib or vein of the leaf. Soon after hatching the young larvae begin to eat holes through the leaf and after a while crawl to other leaves, which they consume by eating from the edges till nothing remains but the leaf stalk and central rib. If one is much in the garden and has good eyes, the quickest way to destroy these worms is to notice the few perforated leaves near the bottom of the bushes and pick them off and crush in the hand or under foot. The hatch from two or three leaves may, if neglected, destroy a whole bush in a few days. I have had little use for poisons, so long as I could visit my bushes daily or three or four times a week early in the season. If the bushes are neglected till the worms are spread over them they can be easily destroyed by sprinkling the foliage with powdered white hellebore or the same in water thrown into the bushes with a garden syringe. I prefer the latter method.

But it must be remembered that there are two or more broods of worms in a season, and the first sprinkling will only destroy hatched worms, so there may be need of several applications during the season.

White hellebore is not a dangerous poison to man, and it will be used fully early in the season there will be little use for it after the first rain begins to ripen. In any event the first rain will wash the fruit clean. In reply to the Dorchester inquirer I would say that bushes on rich or poor soils are equally subject to attack, but it will be useless to apply poison except when the worms are eating the leaves. Little can be done this fall to prevent a spring attack, though some advise scraping and burning rubbish found under the bushes to destroy the pupae or mature insects which may be secreted in it. A heavy coat of coal ashes under the bushes has also been recommended, but I have seen little result from this application, though such ashes are good to keep down weeds.

During cold weather, if a few barrels of sifted coal ashes kept in an out-building are used to absorb the chamber slops of the house, and are then thickly spread under currant bushes in the spring, they may grow so rapidly that the worms will do little damage if reasonably well watched.—N. E. Farmer.

Rust on Blackcaps.

E. J. Brownell, in the *Orange County Farmer*, in a very practical letter on this disease, says:

I have a theory that this affection is frequently, if not always, caused by some weakness of the bush; either lack of vigor in the parent stock or some lack in the soil in which planted, and that if the affected plants are removed at once on the first appearance of the disease and burned or removed entirely from the healthy ones it is all that is necessary to eradicate the trouble and that a remedy against a recurrence may often, if not always, be had by the application of some good, strong fertilizing material to add to the strength of the plants remaining.

This theory has been borne out in practice with me to a great extent, having on several occasions had from one-fourth to one-third of the bushes in a small plantation become thus affected and when first noticed digging out and destroying these canes and manuring the others left, giving first a good application of wood ashes and then mulching heavily with stable manure. There was no further trouble from this source. Of course it is annoying to have so many vacant spaces as this treatment will cause, but it seems to me better than to root out the whole plantation. If it seems desirable the ground thus left vacant may be worked over and some other crop planted in until the raspberries can be replaced with new healthy ones. Perhaps this treatment may not always prove as efficient as it has done in those cases that have come under my observation, but I believe it is at least worth while to give it a trial where this trouble prevails unless so large a proportion of the bushes are already affected that enough will not be left after removing those diseased to pay for the use of the land occupied, even if all those still healthy could be saved in good condition.

Set Young Orchards.

Old orchards are like old people, their will is good but their vitality is gone. Why suffer from a scarcity of fruit when by only a little trouble and expense you can have in a few years an abundance of apples of your own raising? How can a man enjoy the fruits of his labor better than by planting an orchard thereby having an abundance of fruit—the apple? The apple is the king of fruit, lasting almost the year through, and relished by both old and young. Look at the different uses we put the apple to, from the dainty jellies and pies to the substantial meal that the boys make out of them, and then one can not fail to suit the taste in the different flavors of the many varieties of both sour and sweet.

Fall will soon be with us and as soon as the leaves have turned, and before they drop young trees can be planted or set in safety. In setting out a young orchard select a piece of ground that is naturally dry, or thoroughly drained by ditching, as fruit trees will not do well on a sour wet soil. Crop the piece the year previous to planting the trees, thereby giving the ground good cultivation and thus freeing it from weeds. Do not follow the old system of rowing both ways but plant them at haphazard fashion, thereby securing the free circulation of air, and more sunshine

which is beneficial to the ripening and coloring of the fruit. Dig your holes three feet square and two and one-half feet deep. In the bottom place rotted manure mixed with the top soil well stamped around the fibers of the roots. The best time to set trees is in the fall, mounding the ground well around the trunks. The mounds keep the water from the roots and thus prevent heaving, which would loosen the roots. By fall setting we gain time and to the farmer time is money—and in the spring nature can do her work on a par with trees that have become established.

For the first four or five years keep the ground under cultivation with some light crop, giving occasional dressings of manure and ashes, and at the expiration of this time your trees will have begun to bear and you can say I am eating the fruit of my labor. In a few years you will have a surplus for market. Use none but strong thrifty stock and you will secure a good stand. Keep your trees pruned and never let the limbs cross each other. The best varieties for sale are the Baldwin and King of Tompkins. Let the farmer set the roadside with apple trees and let the village man set them in the corners of his lot, and all will profit by their work.—Orange County Farmer.

How Figs Grow.

Estelle Thomson, writing from sunny California, the "home of the fig," gives in the *Home-Maker* for July, a most interesting description of fig culture, and thus portrays the ripening of that delicious fruit:

It is a peculiarity of the fig tree that it never flowers outwardly. Many claim that it has no flowers, because they are so concealed; but they are, in reality, very numerous. A little hollow bud puts out on the side of the fig shoot. It is hardly noticeable at first—scarcely larger than the head of a common pin. Inside of this bud (or syconia, as it is known), packed with the utmost skill and compactness, nature stores the flowers which are to make fruit and by. Cut open a bud, after a time, and inspect its contents. The work is done nicely. The little green packing-case is stowed full in every tiny niche of the bud; it is eventually to become seeds of the perfect fruit. When about half-grown, the bud takes a resting spell. You think the crop may be a failure, it advances so slowly. But have patience—wait!

Of a sudden the bud-shaped case begins to swell; it grows larger every hour, and rounds out rapidly. You can hardly believe your eyes, watching it. Yesterday it was a bud, to-day it is a fig, fully formed, rich in pulp and very sweet. It begins to take on color—it may be green or amber, red or white, purple, violet, black or blue, according to variety. It looks ready to eat. The bees come flying out to inspect it; the wasps hover near, anxious to tap it as soon as its juices will flow; the birds sit and rock in the tree tops and eye it longingly; the door-yard fowls crowd and hop with lusty springs to reach it; even the swine have a knowing way of rooting about the tree's base waiting for the tempting morsel when it falls; but you, keeping guard closely, say—It is a pretty sight, truly, but mine is the prize! And then, one day, when the sun shines down hotly until it has warmed and mellowed it through and through, you bring out your knife and clip its stem and lay back its quivering pulp and set your teeth into its delicious seeds and crunch, crunch delightedly, as you drink in its life juices; while all the birds and bees and wasps and doorway fowls, and even the swine, turn envious eyes at your selfish greed, and set about looking for another syconia ready to swell.

The Shade Trees of Paris.

One of the glories of Paris is its beautiful shade trees, which are found on nearly all of the boulevards and principal avenues, and which are made beautiful by the care that is bestowed upon them. One notices particularly the arrangements made for supplying them with all the moisture they need. In most instances a depression some six inches deep is made around the tree, which is covered by a circular iron grating of ornamental design, four or five feet in diameter. These shallow basins are filled as often as occasion requires by the street watering corps, and the watering is done systematically and in a thorough manner. During the late dry spell many of these iron gratings were temporarily removed and the basins opened to the depth of a foot or more in order to give the roots of the trees sufficient moisture to keep them in the best condition. The trimming is most carefully arranged, and an avenue of sycamores or horse chestnuts in four lines of trees, and showing a luxuriant growth of foliage, is a beautiful sight. The branches, and even twigs lopped off in the trimming, are carefully saved and made into bundles of fire-wood, for no wood is ever wasted in France.—Philadelphia Press.

FLORICULTURAL.

The best time to plant pansy seeds is in the autumn. Sow out doors in September and cover the young plants with evergreen branches or forest leaves, being sure the seed bed is well drained. They will give fine blooms early in the spring.

The *Cobaea Scandens* is a beautiful and very desirable climber, and would be seen much more frequently but for the difficulty in getting the seed to germinate. It grows very rapidly when once well started, and produces many pretty blue flowers. The *Wistaria* is another very charming climber, but one not frequently seen. It has pale lavender flowers, growing in racemes not unlike the flowers of the locust.

LILIES need a good mulching to keep the root cool and moist. A bed of lilies that has been properly mulched in a few years will yield enormously; more than three the number of flowers will be produced, and they will be much larger, with better defined colors and of greater substance. A lily-bed should be made in a position where it can remain undisturbed for a number of years, and as long as the plants flower well.

DOROTHY says, in the *Country Gentleman*: For a stately screen or dividing line, there is nothing quite so imperiously pretty as a row of lily-hocks. Not annuals, to be sure; and the forethought that sows seed in the spring for summer after next has need of

faith, but with that faith and foresight it is entirely easy to have a grand show from the seed. Clumps or screens of sweet peas may often be utilized to accentuate an interesting portion of the grounds, or to conceal some homely object of use. Planted deeply and thickly, as soon as the frost is out of the ground, and brushed in advance, they will grow tall and stately, in a charming union of solidity and lightness. Free cutting prolongs the flowering season, and few flowers fill a vase more exquisitely than a bunch of sweet peas.

The *Country Gentleman* tells how to make a wild garden, in answer to an inquiry, as follows: First select a piece of ground in a rather retired position, manure and cultivate it, and cultivate and manure it till it is rich, clean and mellow. Then purchase of the seedsmen all the perennial seeds you can obtain, and sow them broadcast and rake them in. If sown thick enough, not much else will grow on the land, and next year there will be a profusion of flowers. The strong will crowd out the weak unless special attention is given to the weaker ones. Add wild flowers from the woods and ravines, by marking them when in bloom, and digging them up afterward. We have seen flowering plants thus hold their places without care a dozen years.

In April, 1887, W. W. Cole, a Lansdowne, Pa., florist, bought a plant of one of the new roses, Mrs. John Laing, for one dollar. In question how many young rose plants could be grown from one stock plant in a season, quite a controversy arose, which finally culminated in a bet of a champagne supper that Mr. Cole could not raise 500 plants from one rose plant by the 15th of the following April. No restrictions as to methods were made, and Mr. Cole chose to propagate by grafting on Manetti stocks. December 24th the first lot of plants was grafted, about 175, and in February seedlings were taken from these, and on the day named, April 15, 1888, Mr. Cole had 1,300 plants fit to ship to any part of the country.

AGAPANTHUS UMBELLATUS is a plant which might be well termed the blue lily, and is one of the easiest to cultivate; being almost hardy it will grow without fire-heat; the only protection it needs in the winter months is to be kept clear from frost, which can be easily done if kept in a cold frame, the pot laid on its side and kept dry; as the roots are thick and fleshy, there is a large amount of sap stored up that serves the plant in good stead during the dull season, that little water is necessary; but when the plants start into growth in the spring, water should be given more freely; in fact, as the summer advances, and the plants show their flower-spikes, the pots should have a large saucer put under each, and be well supplied with water till the blooms are opening, when less should be given. The agapanthus makes a most useful change in color amongst the other flowering plants in the conservatory. It is a beautiful plant for blooming on the piazza, where it is very showy.—Horticultural Times.

The *Boston Transcript* says: Last spring, in the time when daisies blossom, a lady living on Mount Bowdoin went out to gather a bunch of the gold-hearted flowers. Seeing some exceptionally large and deeply colored clover blossoms, she stooped to pick them, and discovered a four-leaved clover, and another, until she had found seventeen four, and one six-leaved one on the one plant, not larger than her own hand. The plant was in a rocky spot, and its roots readily detached themselves from the scant soil and came up in her hands. She took it home, set it out in her garden, and it produced its kind through all the summer long. The plant never increased in size, its roots refusing to spread themselves, but she rarely visited it without being rewarded by from one to eight four-leaved specimens. In the autumn the lady transplanted the root to a small salt box, which it not nearly fill, but since that time, it has born thirty-seven four, and a dozen five-leaved clovers.

Horticultural Items.

The Crescent and Cumberland strawberries have not yet been displaced by newer varieties.

A. I. Root, in *Gleanings*, says the bush Lima beans are considerably more tropical in their nature than the ordinary pole Lima beans. They must have warmer weather and should be planted later than pole Limas.

The cedar bird is a little rascal in the cherry orchard. Don't shoot him, though, for the sum of his good qualities exceeds the total of his injurious ones. Scare him out of the orchard, but spare his life. He's afraid of a stuffed cat, owl or hawk.

Mr. C. W. Garfield says that good culture of young asparagus plants for one year will make plants ready to be placed in permanent quarters. Asparagus is a strong feeder, but does not root deep. It has a habit of storing immense quantities of goods in its fleshy roots to be used in rapidly pushing the growth above ground in the proper season, hence the value of having a large amount of available plant food within its reach.

L. B. Pierce, of Ohio, has been much annoyed by the raids of men and boys on his strawberry plantation. This season he mounted guard over his fruit, not with a gun, but with a spy-glass. This weapon brought the marauders near enough for identification sufficient to warrant legal action for trespass, and in some instances the sight of a man with an unknown instrument in his hand and taking down notes in a note-book so mystified intending raiders that they abandoned their purpose.

E. P. Powell, of Oneida County, N. Y., sets his currants in rows seven feet apart, and between the rows plants cutbush raspberries, keeping but four or five canes in a hill and not allowing them to sucker. The earth is made rich and strong and kept so, and the double crop is profitable, with currants at \$2.50 and raspberries at \$3.50 or \$4. Rows of grapes are put eight feet apart; with currants between, and strawberries under the trellises. The strawberry crop is not ideal but fairly good.

A WASH said to be effectual in keeping rabbits, mice, sheep, etc., from gnawing the bark of trees is as follows: Fresh lime slaked with soft water (old soap suds is best), make wash the thickness used to wash house

or fencings. Where one peck of lime is used, while hot add one gallon crude carbolic acid, costing fifty cents, one-half gallon gas-kerosene, costing ten cents, and four pounds of sulphur. Stir well. For summer wash leave gas-kerosene out and add in place of it one gallon of soft soap. Wash the last of May or June. This is also a preventive of the depredations of the borers. Use a flat paint brush to apply. Apply whenever it seems to have been washed off.

Speaking of strawberry culture, a writer in the *Country Gentleman* says: "If you have not clean land, it will be cheaper to plant a new bed each spring, and plow under the old one as soon as the berries are gone, than to clean out a bed and keep it to grow a second crop. I have usually done this, and I plant my old bed in sweet corn, and grow a full and profitable crop when planted by July 4. A few years of this rotation will give very clean land as well as rich land, for the strawberries will receive large quantities of manure in the mulch alone, and when this and all the growth of vines are turned down to rot, it makes the land light, lively and rich; and as no seeds are allowed to ripen, in a few years foul land can be made so clean that the bed can stand two or more years if desirable.

Warm weather often causes extreme tired feeling and debility, and in the weakened condition of the system, diseases arising from impure blood are liable to appear. To gain strength, to overcome disease, and to purify, vitalize and enrich the blood, take Hood's Sarsaparilla.

Apianarian.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Bee Journal* says he has known a bee to fly one and one-quarter miles and return in eight minutes on a warm, still day. In a damp windy day it took the same bee 15 minutes to make the same trip. The bee was marked by a spot of red paint, on the back, so there could be no mistake.

The June issue of the *Bee-Keepers' Review* is a symposium on the subject of shade for bees. The novice in apiculture would exclaim "Who shall decide when doctors disagree?" Some noted apianarians say shade is needed and necessary; others equally noted say it is not necessary. You pay your money and take your choice.

BYRON WALKER, of Capac, last year took a number of colonies of bees up the Mississippi River in search of nectar, advancing with the season of bloom. This year he went to Kenton, Tenn., the 16th of April, bought 100 colonies of bees, and the first of June he had taken a crop of 1,900 lbs. comb honey and 1,400 lbs. extracted. Mr. Walker makes a success of his peripatetic apianary.

J. M. HICKS, of Battle Ground, Ind., has a sample of alkali clover honey extracted in 1889, which he says is as nice as when it was extracted. He does not name the method by which it was preserved. Mr. Hicks is a strong advocate of alkali clover as a honey plant, saying it is the best crop for a fine quality of honey, and unexcelled by any other bee-plant in point of yield, as it often produces from 500 to 800 lbs. to the acre.

G. M. DOOLITTLE keeps in his bee-cellar a quantity of saw-dust for a purpose he thus explains: "Every month I bring in a bushel or more of fine, dry basswood sawdust, such as is made while sawing sections, and scatter it on the floor. This sawdust will absorb almost its bulk in moisture, so that I retain it here to keep all dry, sweet and nice. Before I used this, the dead bees on the floor would mold and smell badly, but now all smells sweet and nice, and no mold appears."

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Prairie Farmer* says: A beekeeper was once puzzled to know why all his swarms deserted, as they were put into clean, new hives. On investigating, he ascertained that his new hives had the odor of kerosene; they had been manufactured during winter and stored in the back room adjoining his grocery, where were stored barrels of kerosene and other supplies. The smell of kerosene is very distasteful to bees.

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DETROIT, SATURDAY, AUG. 10, 1889.

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STOCK SALES IN MICHIGAN.

The following dates are claimed by Michigan breeders for sales of stock:

AUG. 31—Geo. Coleman, Livingston Co., Galloway cattle.

OCT. 1—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 2—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 3—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 4—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 5—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 6—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 7—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 8—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 9—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 10—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 11—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 12—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 13—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 14—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 15—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

OCT. 16—J. A. Mann, Auctioneer.

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during the week ending July 27 were 330,120 bu. less than the estimated consumption; and for the eight weeks ending July 13 the receipts are estimated to have been 4,847,735 bu. less than the consumption. The receipts show a decrease for those eight weeks of 5,400,084 bu. as compared with the corresponding eight weeks in 1888.

Shipments of wheat from India for the week ending July 27, 1889, as per special cable to the New York Produce Exchange, aggregated 760,000 bu., of which 560,000 bu. were for the United Kingdom and 200,000 bu. for the Continent. The shipments for the previous week, as cable, amounted to 920,000 bu., of which 840,000 went to the United Kingdom, and 80,000 bu. to the Continent. The shipments from that country from April 1, the beginning of the crop year, to July 27, aggregated 9,450,000 bu., of which 6,340,000 bu. went to the United Kingdom, and 3,110,000 bu. to the Continent. For the corresponding period in 1888 the shipments were 15,800,000 bu. The wheat on passage from India July 16 was estimated at 2,400,000 bu. One year ago the quantity was 4,560,000 bu.

The Liverpool market on Friday was quiet, with little doing. Quotations for American wheat were as follows: No. 2 winter, 70¢; No. 1, 71¢; No. 3, 69¢; No. 4, 67¢; No. 5, 65¢; No. 6, 63¢; No. 7, 61¢; No. 8, 59¢; No. 9, 57¢; No. 10, 55¢; No. 11, 53¢; No. 12, 51¢; No. 13, 49¢; No. 14, 47¢; No. 15, 45¢; No. 16, 43¢; No. 17, 41¢; No. 18, 39¢; No. 19, 37¢; No. 20, 35¢; No. 21, 33¢; No. 22, 31¢; No. 23, 29¢; No. 24, 27¢; No. 25, 25¢; No. 26, 23¢; No. 27, 21¢; No. 28, 19¢; No. 29, 17¢; No. 30, 15¢; No. 31, 13¢; No. 32, 11¢; No. 33, 9¢; No. 34, 7¢; No. 35, 5¢; No. 36, 3¢; No. 37, 1¢; No. 38, 0¢; No. 39, 0¢; No. 40, 0¢; No. 41, 0¢; No. 42, 0¢; No. 43, 0¢; No. 44, 0¢; No. 45, 0¢; No. 46, 0¢; No. 47, 0¢; No. 48, 0¢; No. 49, 0¢; No. 50, 0¢; No. 51, 0¢; No. 52, 0¢; No. 53, 0¢; No. 54, 0¢; No. 55, 0¢; No. 56, 0¢; No. 57, 0¢; No. 58, 0¢; No. 59, 0¢; No. 60, 0¢; No. 61, 0¢; No. 62, 0¢; No. 63, 0¢; No. 64, 0¢; No. 65, 0¢; No. 66, 0¢; No. 67, 0¢; No. 68, 0¢; No. 69, 0¢; No. 70, 0¢; No. 71, 0¢; No. 72, 0¢; No. 73, 0¢; No. 74, 0¢; No. 75, 0¢; No. 76, 0¢; No. 77, 0¢; No. 78, 0¢; No. 79, 0¢; No. 80, 0¢; No. 81, 0¢; No. 82, 0¢; No. 83, 0¢; No. 84, 0¢; No. 85, 0¢; No. 86, 0¢; No. 87, 0¢; No. 88, 0¢; No. 89, 0¢; No. 90, 0¢; No. 91, 0¢; No. 92, 0¢; No. 93, 0¢; No. 94, 0¢; No. 95, 0¢; No. 96, 0¢; No. 97, 0¢; No. 98, 0¢; No. 99, 0¢; No. 100, 0¢; No. 101, 0¢; No. 102, 0¢; No. 103, 0¢; No. 104, 0¢; No. 105, 0¢; No. 106, 0¢; No. 107, 0¢; No. 108, 0¢; No. 109, 0¢; No. 110, 0¢; No. 111, 0¢; No. 112, 0¢; No. 113, 0¢; No. 114, 0¢; No. 115, 0¢; No. 116, 0¢; No. 117, 0¢; No. 118, 0¢; No. 119, 0¢; No. 120, 0¢; No. 121, 0¢; No. 122, 0¢; No. 123, 0¢; No. 124, 0¢; No. 125, 0¢; No. 126, 0¢; No. 127, 0¢; No. 128, 0¢; No. 129, 0¢; No. 130, 0¢; No. 131, 0¢; No. 132, 0¢; No. 133, 0¢; No. 134, 0¢; No. 135, 0¢; No. 136, 0¢; No. 137, 0¢; No. 138, 0¢; No. 139, 0¢; No. 140, 0¢; No. 141, 0¢; No. 142, 0¢; No. 143, 0¢; No. 144, 0¢; No. 145, 0¢; No. 146, 0¢; No. 147, 0¢; No. 148, 0¢; No. 149, 0¢; No. 150, 0¢; No. 151, 0¢; No. 152, 0¢; No. 153, 0¢; No. 154, 0¢; No. 155, 0¢; No. 156, 0¢; 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Poetry.

THE OLD HOME.

In the quiet shadows of twilight
I stand by the garden door,
And gaze on the old, old homestead,
So cherished and loved of yore.
But the ivy now is twining
Untroubled o'er window and wall;
And no more the voice of the children
Is echoing through the hall.
Through years of pain and sorrow,
Since first I had to part,
The thought of the dear old homestead
Has lingered around my heart;
The porch embowered with roses,
The garden's drooping eaves,
And the song of the birds at twilight
Amid the orchard leaves.
And the forms of those who loved me
In the happy childhood years
Appear at times dimmed with tears.
I hear their voices calling
From the shadows far away,
And I stretch my arms toward them
In the gloom of the twilight gray.
But only the night winds answer,
As I cry through the dismal air;
And only the bats come swooping
From the darkness of its lair.
Yet still the voice of my childhood
Is calling from far away,
And the faces of those who loved me
Smile through the shadows gray.
—Chambers' Journal.

I WONDER.

I wonder when my day will be,
When Death shall come to tell me
The story that we all must hear;
When, with the silence drawing near,
I feel my hold on earth so weak
My pale lips have no power to speak
Of anguish or of ecstasy.
Ah, how lonely the grasses under
When will you go to welcome me
Your silent guest to be, I wonder?
I wonder if it will be spring,
When o'er my head the birds will sing
Their first sweet song not yet to words;
And which of all the many birds
Will be the first to greet me,
When I forever done with care,
Just like a child tread out at play,
Sleep all the night and all the day
So peacefully my green road under.
Will it be autumn-time or May,
Winter or summertime, I wonder?
I wonder if I shall be glad
To leave the pain I long have had;
Or, if from friends who love me so,
But with reluctance I shall go;
Go out upon that journey long
So voiceless I shall sing no song.
Ah, chain of life's fair warp and woof
When will your bright links drop asunder?
When will I sleep beneath the roof
Thatched with the violets, I wonder?
—Helen A. Montville.

Miscellaneous.

MRS. MONTGOMERY SWIFT.

Miss Jessica Wynne had waving brown hair and merry dancing eyes, red lips always parted over small white teeth, a round waist and a bright, fresh complexion. She was barely 17, a perfect edition of the pocket Venus and the possessor of a fair fortune. These were her assets, against which stood the facts that she lived in a quiet country town, that she had neither father nor mother and had been since her babyhood the charge of a widowed, childless aunt. However, on the whole, the odds were in favor of the girl, who, being gifted with a fearless, independent nature, contrived to make the most of opportunities and as she grew up became the acknowledged belle of the country side. No country ball was deemed a success unless Miss Wynne was present. She was escorted to the festivities by some obliging chaperon, to whom Miss Polver trusted her, sometimes for a couple of days at a stretch, with many recommendations as to propriety and deportment.

Finally Jessica was invited by some acquaintances, who had taken a great fancy to her, to spend two weeks with them in London immediately after Easter. The girl passed a week in a delicious joy of preparation and anticipation. She dreamed of triumphs which would eclipse those of the little country belle; of intoxicating delights, of parties, balls, theatres; of all the places she had read of in the society papers; and looking at her pretty face in the glass she even hoped that it might be her proud fate to see her name in print as "the lovely Miss Wynne" in some glowing paragraph.

Colonel and Mrs. Tressilian, her future hosts, were a fashionable, middle-aged couple, addicted to a good deal of wandering over Europe in quest of health and amusement, but generally occupied a fine house in South Kensington during the season, where they entertained liberally both their compatriots and foreigners, whenever they were not themselves being entertained.

Jessica Wynne returned to Wales at the beginning of July. If Mrs. Polver had been observant she might have noticed a shadow in the laughing brown eyes, a certain compression in the scarlet lips. She vaguely observed that the girl was unusually reticent about her London experiences. "Yes, London was very gay—plenty of things going on, of course; lots of fine gowns, good music. Oh, yes, heaps of concerts, too many of them." "Had she enjoyed herself?" "Of course; how could she help enjoying herself in London during the season?" and answers to that effect.

The truth of the matter was that the popular little Welsh belle had been sorely neglected in London. She found, to her indignation, that her beauty, wit and repartee remained unappreciated; with increasing choler she soon remarked that other maidens as fresh and fair as herself shared her ignominious obscurity. Her consciousness, which was not conceited, told her that she was sacrificed to rivals less fair, less clever, and, above all, less young; she realized that one and all of the successful queens of society were odious married women—fast, bold, exacting, tyrannical matrons, who monopolized the attentions of the men. She saw those unprincipled creatures surrounded by their courtiers at the play and at the races; they were asked to dinners, picnics and balls, and when poor little Jessica did get a card for a dance, the entertainment painfully reminded her of the breaking up of her school, where the white

flocks so hopelessly predominated over the black coats. Remembering all these things, the girl set her teeth hard, gathered her eyebrows into a resolute frown and vowed that if she had lost her first innings she would be even yet with the London world.

Miss Wynne had not forgotten her vow, or else fortune favored her. A year later Mrs. Polver died, leaving half her money to faithful servants, the other half to Jessica, who became almost an heiress. When six months had passed, a little paragraph appeared in several papers containing the following intelligence:

"We understand that the beautiful Miss Jessica Wynne will, at the expiration of her mourning, return to society as the bride of Captain Montgomery Swift. This gallant officer, now on leave, will, however, shortly after the honeymoon be compelled to join his regiment abroad."

This announcement, short of local hyperbole, gradually found its way into the Birmingham and Manchester dailies, and finally drifted into one or two London papers.

Mrs. Montgomery Swift took a charming furnished house in Mayfair, kept a perfectly appointed brougham and victoria, procured her toilets from Paris and forthwith became the rage. Her gowns were copied, her repartees quoted, her five o'clock at home crowded. She gave neither dinners nor parties, availed herself of a few of the introductions obtained through the Tressilians, who were abroad; with charming impertinence and pretty audacity dropped all the people she considered bores, and plunged into the maddest whirl of social dissipation. American girls gnashed their teeth with envy when the little "grass widow" carried off their most hopeful admirers, dowagers frowned, young matrons pursed their lips, mothers of marriageable daughters were bitter, but Mrs. Montgomery Swift heeded them not, and revelled in her popularity.

"Who the deuce is Captain Swift, and where does he hang out?" queried a guardian of a fellow-ranger parting from Jessica, when she re-entered her carriage after her daily walk in the park.

"Who cares where the husband of a pretty woman is so he is absent?" was the flippant answer. "He's somewhere on the gold coast, or in India, or in Suakin, she tells me; he might be dead and buried for all I care—only it's much safer to know the husband somewhere, and to do the little woman justice, although she flirts to the nine, she does drag the Captain in pretty freely; and even were he to mount guard over her like a watch dog he wouldn't find much to make a rumour about."

For once the verdict of clubs, mess-rooms and smoking-rooms was just; Mrs. Montgomery Swift's morals were unimpeachable. Without ostentation she frequently alluded to her absent consort, related passages from his correspondence, bewailed the long exile and frequent changes entailed by his profession, wondered how long he would remain in those outlandish places where wives were an impossibility, and occasionally reduced her admirers to frantic despair by announcing her intention of joining Captain Swift wherever he might be next sent. When asked that such self-immolation would be madness she pensively concluded that perhaps it were wiser to await his return to civilization and England.

Sometimes—not very often—Jessica was alone, and then she would look at herself in the glass and smile quizzically. "Isn't it funny?" she murmured, scanning her features. "I am sure I am not quite so fresh and pretty as I was two years ago, and I don't think I am nearly as nice. And yet—then nobody even looked at me, while now—"

Her eyes sparkled. "Oh, my blessed husband, what a service you have rendered me! And to think I shall never, never be able to repay you!"

Towards the middle of August, with the abruptness which characterized all her movements, Jessica, without a word of warning to her courtiers, accepted an invitation to spend a fortnight in Scotland with a young married couple who had taken a house on Loch Lomond for two months. She had not been told whether or not there would be other guests, but she knew that the Bullhues had the knack of making people comfortable, and she felt just a little tired of a surfeit of devotion, and inclined to escape from it and rusticate in comparative solitude. So one day she found herself at St. Pancras station, and when her maid had settled her in a private parlor car, with her books and dressing bag, she prepared for her long, solitary journey with restful satisfaction. However, just as the hour for departure had struck, the door of her compartment was violently opened, a military-looking portmanteau and case were thrust in, a guard exclaimed, "Plenty of room—just in time—jump in, sir—thank you, sir!" and slammed the door again upon a tall, handsome man, who had entered hurriedly, and who, as the train steamed out of the station, looked rather disconcerted in finding himself tête-à-tête with a young, pretty and elegant woman.

Before leaving Leicester the travelers had already exchanged a few commonplace civilities connected with the pulling up and down of windows, the loan of newspapers, etc. Instinctively they recognized that they belonged to the same social class; each discerned in the other a certain independent unconventional originality, and, like strangers meeting by chance at some dinner party, they soon began to converse on every possible subject.

"Do you propose stopping at Edinburgh?" said the gentleman when, after Normanton and lunch, they had resumed their seats.

"For the night, perhaps; but I am bound for Invernauld," answered Jessica.

"Ah!" with a slight start, "I have some friends about there myself—relations."

"I wonder if they know my friends—at the Towers?"

"The Bullhues?"

"Exactly."

"Why Dora Bullune is my cousin, and I am on my way to see her."

"How very amusing! Well, I had an intuition that we were going to the same place."

A pause ensued. Then he broke the silence. "I have just returned to England after a long absence. Among other objects of my present journey is to find something about a wife I have never seen."

"A wife you have never seen?" said Jessica.

"You are not serious?"

"Quite serious. I have had a wife in England, although I am not married."

"A widower, then?"

"No, not a widower. I was married with-

out my knowledge, by mistake, in default. The newspapers married me—I heard of it in India—and so persistently that I got a three months' leave only to make myself a free man once more. I left the P. and O. three days ago, and am on my way to the Bellhues to ask what they were about in allowing their nearest relative to be labeled all over the world as booked and done for."

"A hard case, and one deserving of much pity. So the indignity of wedlock has been put upon you. Accept my deepest sympathy."

"You may laugh, but it was, it is odious. All the fellows out there affect to believe it is true—that I am a derelict husband with a family. On landing here I found no end of letters of congratulation. I dare not show myself at the clubs. If at first I was inclined to treat the matter lightly, now I am determined to sift the whole thing, sue the libelers, and give a public denunciation."

"To the compromising accusation of matrimony? I would, if I were you."

"I shall," he said sternly.

They were just steaming into the Carlisle Station. Jessica remained alone while her companion smoked a cigar on the platform. She took advantage of the gathering twilight to rise, and unperceived, to examine the label on the hat box resting in the rack. She found some difficulty in deciphering it, and fell back into the seat as the owner of it stepped once more into the carriage. He fancied she looked very pale, and asked her if she was tired. She did not answer at once, but as soon as the train was fairly under way she said abruptly: "Is your name Montgomery Swift?"

"It is," he said, surprised; but glancing at the hat box, which lay in an altered position, he added:

"Have you guessed that?" And are you a fortune teller?"

"You call yourself a captain?" continued Jessica, in the same strained voice.

"I do, till I become a major."

"Impossible! There is not a Captain Montgomery Swift in the whole British army."

"I beg your pardon. I am that humble officer."

"No, you are not; there is no such man in the army list—there was not a year ago."

"Possibly not at that time, for a year ago I was Monty Gordon. Last Christmas a good old man who was my godfather, died and left me all his fortune and estates on condition that I should take and bear his name. I complied. A Swift was manufactured out of a Gordon and yet remained a captain. Under either appellation, equally at your command. But now I must ask of your dressing-bag the same introduction furnished by my hat-box, and learn by what name I can address my travelling incognito when I meet her again at the Towers."

He quietly bent over the bag of Jessica's neat Russian leather bag, but saw only the letters "J. M. S."

"Ah," he said, "the same initials as mine;" then, interrogatively, "they spell?"

"Jessica Montgomery Swift."

A dead silence followed. Jessica lay back against the cushions motionless, with a crimson flush on her cheeks and forehead. Captain Swift felt that some painful mystery was about to be disclosed, and that the woman by his side was gathering strength for a great effort. He generously repressed every sign of curiosity and astonishment, and waited her pleasure.

After a few moments she turned toward him and spoke slowly and hesitatingly.

"I throw myself upon your mercy. Captain Swift, do not deny publicly to-morrow that you ever were married to Jessica Wynne. Do not pursue those who originated that libel—Give me time. I assure you that I will do my utmost to undo what I have done."

She looked very young and fair, with her earnest eyes and moist lashes. "What have you done?" he said, simply.

"I listen to me, and forgive me if you can. When I first came to London, at 18, I found it a horrid place; only married women were admired, petted and courted—we girls were nowhere. So I made up my mind to come back to town—married; and as I had not a husband—I invented one. I thought I was quite safe. I wanted him to be an officer, because England has such a lot of troops in places people never go to. I looked all over the army and navy lists to make sure I did not choose a name belonging to any living man; I christened him Montgomery Swift, hap-hazard; I put the paragraphs in the papers. He was a very likely sort of a husband to have, you know, and it seemed so natural that he should forever be among the savages—anywhere. Nobody seemed to care about him at all; but they did for his wife, simply because she was not a girl, and it was all working beautifully. Oh, why did you turn up? Why did you have a Swift for a godfather? Why did he die?"

"Would it have suited you to keep up this farce much longer?" said Captain Swift, gravely, but an amused look passed into his eyes.

"Only a little while," said Jessica, promptly. "I intended becoming a widow very soon—some of the climates out there are so unhealthy—no one would have asked any questions. One accepts anything in London when it is convenient to be credulous; but if you are the horrid man please don't expose me yet."

"Not till I am dead, eh?"

"Can't make him out dead now," she said, petulantly; "but I will go away, hide myself, never show my face again."

"That would be a pity there must be some other way to achieve widowhood."

"Don't be cruel. It is dreadful and I know I have been very foolish. But really," she added, with a resumption of her old quaint coquetry, "I can't do more than ask your pardon."

"Yes you can; you can ask my advice," he said, extending his hand, "and, on my honor as a gentleman, I will help you to get out of this scrape."

They talked low and earnestly for the remainder of the journey. At Edinburgh they shook hands warmly and parted. But neither Jessica nor Captain Swift went to the Towers. Two separate telegrams informed Mrs. Bullune that her expected guests were unavoidably prevented from joining her party; nor did Mrs. Montgomery Swift again gladden the hearts of her faithful swains by her presence at the fashionable resorts of late Summer or early Autumn.

Three months later Jessica was walking on the seashore only a mile distance from a pretty village near Bagin di Luca, looking as fresh, crisp and fair as before her first disastrous London campaign, only there was a new tenderness in the dancing brown eyes as she lifted them trustfully to those of a tall man on whose arm her small hand rested.

"And so you are really, truly, not sorry that you never denied your marriage with Miss Wynne?" she said, coaxingly.

"Not sorry at all, darling, as it saves me the fuss of communicating it now," answered Captain Swift. "I'm desperately glad, though, it's all settled and done with."

—London Truth.

DECIDED ECONOMY.

Mr. and Mrs. Blossom were new stars of a fine brilliancy, but of small magnitude, in the society of Warrensburg.

Alexander Blossom and Minnie Blossom had been married for one short year, and time seemed to them just one long summer's day.

There are several married people unlike Alexander and Minnie, for these were never happy except when they were together, and when they were together never unhappy for a moment. When Alexander came in from business he always instituted a search for the brown-haired, brown-eyed girl who was waiting for him, and when he began to despair she would start out of a certain passage-way with a ray laugh and ask him where his eyes were.

Of course, under these circumstances, it was necessary for her to take a good, square look in his eyes to determine if they were the same as ever, and then occurred some of those manifestations which foolish people call foolishness, and which only stopped when the genial husband came to announce that dinner was served. Of course, the household did not say: "Dinner is served;" her proclamation verbatim was: "Come now," but the meaning was the same.

I have omitted to say that Minnie was not very tall; that she was remarkably healthy and deliciously plump. Her lips were as near bursting from fullness as cherries after a rain; her forehead was low, and her eyebrows heavier than the ordinary, made her just so much more magnetic.

There was nothing wonderful about Alexander. You will comprehend Alexander at once when I say that he received \$100 a month which he did not earn. However, he firmly believed that in some mysterious way his labor brought large returns to his employers.

With \$100 a month the Blossoms had to live. Fortunately, they had no rent to pay; the market books under Minnie's care figured up reasonably, and the domestic was kind enough to demand but \$15 a month.

One day Alexander came home from his alleged business, looking nice and sweet, and also looking for Minnie. The latter rushed out from the unexpected place in which she always hid, caught him around the neck, asked him where his eyes were, put a rapturous kiss just below his camel's hair mustache, and cried:

"What do you think?"

The sagacious husband implanted a rapturous kiss just below where Minnie would have had a splendid brown mustache had she been in that line, and he replied that he did not know. He also demanded advice as to what it was appropriate to think.

Minnie then explained that a letter had come addressed to him that looked like wedding cards; that she had—had opened it; and it wasn't wedding cards at all.

Some men, hearing of a mysterious letter opened by a loving wife, would have experienced a feeling of vague unrest. Not so Alexander. He silently weighed the merits of some hasty falsehoods and inquired bravely what the letter was.

"An invitation to join the Warrensburg Social Club," said Minnie, "and I have been thinking of it all the afternoon."

So she had, in her womanly way, she had been thinking what dresses she could wear. "Isn't it nice?" she cried. "Now, say we can go."

"Of course we can go."

The unguardedness of this answer was essentially masculine. Women, on the contrary, always begin by refusing, and afterward allow themselves to be argued into anything whatever.

"Then you must get a dress suit," said Mrs. Blossom.

These were, indeed, strange words. They conveyed the revolting idea that the fashionable Alexander had nothing in dress more formal than outways or Prince Alberts.

How, then, had he been married? The explanation throws light on a very dark passage in Mr. Blossom's life—his dress suit had been pawned; and worse, the time of redemption had expired.

"I can't go," he said, resigning himself to fate with a large F.

"That's it," cried Minnie, delighted, "I've been figuring it all up and you can go."

Here she ran into the next room, and in one second returned with a sheet of legal cap bearing very illegal-looking figures.

"Now, look at this!"

Alexander looked; and I have to record that he was not shocked. The figures and their method were about as nearly like those of an ordained bookkeeper as Mr. Blossom's own.

"We've got to be economical for two months, you see," said Minnie. "There it is, all on paper."

The indisputable document ran thus: "Grocer, \$30; Jane, \$15; butcher, \$15; coal, \$8; everything else, \$10; altogether \$78—\$78 out of \$100 leaves \$22—say \$20; two months, \$40."

"One of those suits doesn't cost more than that, does it?" she asked confidently.

"Costs \$75," replied the gloomy Alexander.

"Humph!" cried Minnie. "Can't you manage? If it were a \$75 dress, \$40 would be plenty."

Alexander shook his head.

"But the club meets early in the evening," persisted Minnie. "Couldn't you get one that would do—ready made, or some thing?"

Alexander was pained. He said he trusted she did not speak in earnest.

"Dear!" cried Minnie, in despair, "what can we do? We can't take boarders, and you can't be a book agent. I wish somebody would leave us some money."

"murmured Alexander, with feeling.

"I know what," cried Minnie, with sudden brightness.

"Don't you ask your father for money," said Mr. Blossom, sternly.

"I don't intend to."

Alexander seemed to think she might have been a little more willful on this point. But he tried to look much relieved, and issued another command that she was not to go in debt. Her assent to this was immediate. Alexander had no more to say.

The next day Minnie, in pursuance of her idea, went by stealth to the clothing emporium of Warrensburg and demanded the price of dress suits. The answer was \$75.

She then asked the price of the cloth. This was a great surprise to the tailor. He affected to solve an intricate problem, and finally coming out with a mathematical flourish of his pencil, said:

"Twenty dollars."

"How much for cutting out?"

"Well," said the tailor, "hem! let me see. You wouldn't want it made up here, you think? Well, coat, vest and—about \$13.50."

"I should like to get the cloth and the cutting both for \$30, if you could," said Minnie, faintly.

"Well," answered the tailor, patronizingly, "that's it; we couldn't. You can't get English goods, you know, at American prices. We have cheaper goods, but—"

"I should want this," said Minnie.

"Well, as the best figure on that I'll say \$33. We don't make anything on it, anyway."

Mrs. Blossom was not deceived, but she pretended to be, and with another exertion of courage asked for a month's credit. Then she directed the cutting to be done by Alexander's measure, already with the tailor, and the next day carried her bundle in triumph to her dressmaker. That was her idea.

Her dressmaker, of course, was one of that infinite number of sewing women, found only by sheer good luck, who are called "Jewels" by feminine gossip, and who charge two prices. They are said to be "reasonable" as distinguished from the real modiste.

According to immemorial usage among dressmakers, this particular "jewel" of Minnie's did not set a price, but she said it was a "splendid plan," that she would try, and that she would make everything "satisfactory."

What can be more satisfactory than satisfactory? Minnie departed in great spirits. Time rattled on and brought the night of the club's first meeting.

The Blossoms' acceptance had been duly sent, and Alexander had been complacently informed that a dress suit would be provided.

He trusted to his wife implicitly, believing that in two months she would create a wonderful novel, as ladies so easily do—in other novels—but that she would pursue the more useful and perhaps more womanly plan of calling on her father. Men are so tardy in conceding to their wives other than domestic virtues. But on a man was about to have his masculine prejudices swept away.

The important night having rolled into Warrensburg, Minnie bade her dependent husband to "come up and get ready."

He went. The bundle was brought out for him to open.

It was a regular tailor's box (such was Minnie's craftiness) and lo! on the collar of the coat was the glowing name of a New York tailor. Minnie, of course, had obtained the name of her father and sewed it on with her own fair hands.

Alex, with a full heart, donned the suit and stood before the mirror. He cast two careful, comprehensive glances at the trim reflection, clasped Minnie to the new coat and exclaimed in many raptures:

"You darling! It's—it's the regular thing!"

"Are you satisfied?" asked the wife, wishing him to commit himself beyond retracting before she divulged the low origin of the suit.

"Of course," cried Alex, warmly, wishing he were a woman so that he could hug a little. "Satisfied? Why, it's one of Alexander's best—that's what it is. See the way it fits. I could tell that was Ackerman a mile off."

When he had raved for ten minutes Minnie confessed the history of the suit. "So you see, after all," she said at last, "we women do know something."

Mrs. Blossom looked at the coat more critically, trying to detect a blemish, but he couldn't.

"Are you still satisfied?" asked Minnie. He had to admit that he was.

"Now, how much do you suppose it cost?" Mr. Blossom couldn't tell. "Now a tailor—or," he began.

"Tailor?" cried Minnie. "You mean robber. I counted on just \$40, and out of that I have this suit, which you say you like, and this dress of mine. You would have paid \$75 for the suit alone. To-morrow I shall go and pay up, and I warn you that every cent I have left out of the \$40 I shall spend on candy, every single cent."

For Minnie had the woman's love of extravagance after all.

So this was Mrs. Blossom's triumph. Not a gentleman at the club was better dressed than her husband.

They were both in raptures, Alexander especially, when he had convinced himself that this suit did not proclaim to the world the disgraceful truth that it had been constructed by a dressmaker.

The next evening when Mr. Blossom came home and instituted the search for Minnie, she did not leap out at him from her old, unthought of hiding place. She was in her room and crying.

"What is the matter?" asked Alexander.

She did not reply at first, but still kept her head from him, but when he had been brought up to the proper state of sympathy and alarm she cried a little more bitterly than before, and unconsciously relaxed her grasp upon a piece of crumpled paper.

Alexander divined that this dirty scrap was the source of the trouble and picked it up. It contained atrocious writing executed in red ink, and looked like the work of a dynamiter. But it was not so brief. It began:

"Mrs. Blossom to Mrs. Darden, man Dress Suit," and after eighteen or twenty lines of trimmings, linings, buttons, etc., cloth, making, etc., culminated in "tote \$30."

Under this "tote" Minnie had written

in trembling figures what she owed the tailor, \$35, and then she had made a "tote" of her own. The dress suit had cost her \$72.

"You hate me," she sobbed, "you'll think you've married a simpton."

Alexander was not distinguished for a keen insight into human nature, but with so beautiful and appealing a creature as Minnie in tears, who would not know the proper chord?

"Simpton!" he cried, and distrustful the power of words alone, he seized her by the waist "sae jump," and gleefully whisked her about the room.

